

TOP SECRET

INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY DEPT.

FILE BEGINS

FILE PERIOD: 1954-1956

PART

PART

FILE TITLE

ACTIVITIES OF CZECH TRADE

CORPORATIONS

FILE NUMBER

ISD. / B. K

FILE NUMBER

ISD. / B. K

When circulated this file must be enclosed  
in a "Special Care" numbered box and must  
be kept under lock and key when not in use.

INDEX HEADINGS

CLOSED  
UNTIL  
1987

Subversive  
activities

Undesirable

West Africa

H.504.

CO1035/134

PRECEDENTS NOTED UNDER:—

RELATED FILES:—

CROSS REFERENCED UNDER:—

Czechoslovakia (Non S)

FO (Clinton Thomas) secret (NC 1161/2C) - 22/2/58

No trace in  
card index of  
Mr. VONDRASEK or  
Czechoslovak Nigerian  
Export + Import Co. of  
Lagos or no other  
companies  
mentioned.

In the E.S.S. Smith

Can you help, please? The FO  
are "all out" & from what  
there is a Russian ship  
into the African Comes.  
So far there is no work  
2 - And neither Nigeria  
said these Czechs showed  
no signs of any political  
activity, only of trade.  
Mr. Smith  
27/2

H.342

Please check to see if we have any  
relevant references.

Timmons 28/2

Mr. Timmons

We have no references to the  
firm mentioned in (1) in West African Section.  
I understand the E.G.D. Section have no reference,  
but I have obtained EN 56/014 which may be  
of interest. Items (91 + 56) therein mention the  
firm of Melobor, and there are various references  
to Czech firms.

Strongly  
18

To Boston.

Not much help I am afraid.

I think we can only deal with these things on their obvious merits - until we find more reason to attribute sinister motives.

D. Lewis 1/3

Mr. Grubb:

Will you please draft a savingram to Nigeria asking for a report on the Czech firm mentioned?

2. Also, please draft a letter in reply to (1) beginning with a quotation from our circular savingram No. 315/33 of 28.3.55, see (36) on GEN 56/014, <sup>1/3</sup> and then going on to give them a precis of the information from African countries about Iron Curtain traders. The letter could end with a statement taken from the Nigerian Political Intelligence Report of, I think, January or December last, that nothing of a political nature had been noticed in connection with commercial visits from Prague etc., and also to a similar statement which will be found in the January Gambia Intelligence Report.

3. This needs some care as the Foreign Office seem to be moving heaven and earth to prove a Russian drive on Africa, but you will notice that they are turning away from Russia to the satellites.

11

Max Bath

2 March 1956

H342.

Pl. attach copies of the reports referred to in para. 2 above.

Pl. attach  
5/3.

2 drafts enclosed Pl. attach 10/3.

R504

~~Despatch the answer to~~  
FB 12/3 then file back to me Pl.

2 Nigeria - Say 511 } w/ enc. as  
3 f. boast. -- - 299 } draft  
SECRET - b6b  
13 MAR 1956

Received 0. min. 12/3

8 13/3

CBB

~~In Grubbs~~

Where did you get #1/13/

from in the draft below

(2), please. 13/3

In Banton

✓ 13/3  
A/ - see para 2 of  
(13/ on Feb 5/014).  
B/ - see para 12 (iii) of  
the Nigeria Political Notes  
for December / January  
(copy attached). By  
'normal immigration policy'  
I take it to mean  
as applied to visitors  
to from from certain  
countries, i.e. treat each  
case on its merits as  
recommended in the  
Circular at (13/ on Feb 5/014).

14/3.

4 To blinton Thomas F.O. (S) ref 2 — 16/3/56  
repeated that Nigerian Gov has requests  
for VISA from Iron curtain traders

5. To Martin M. 15 copy of 4 — 16/3/56

*Blinton*

6. Gold board - Saw. 302 - ref (3) — 22.3.56

Copy of (2) in enclosures  
& addressee of (4) compl's  
plan. Recd. B 27/3

7 To blinton F.O. S. — copy of Ref 6 and — 10.4.56.  
2. enclosures.

*Blinton*

Recirculated, recc'd by (2).  
S. W. Lister  
13/4/56

Pl: remind B 15/4

8 Nigeria. R. 2. ref (2) Cons. 14 APR 1956

*W.H.B.*

*Blinton*

9. Nigeria - See Sec. 672 - Ref (25) — 3.5.56

Thank you.

~~8044.~~  
Pl. reg. on  
"Sino-Soviet EC.  
Activities" file  
NYK 1475  
6049 & 6050 (a)  
on ECD. 90/220/01.  
Dennis  
1/5

h504

1. Pl. set them off. Then to  
2. Mr. Hibatt

You may care to have  
this paper at the back  
of this file.

From Parkin

— 10. 5

10. To Clinton Thomas FO. SECRET with enclos 10556

11. To. Martin (500) — Secret with comp.  
dup of ref 10 — 10556



12. Clinton Thomas - Ref (105) — 19. 6. 56

Mr. Nelson

To see this file at (1),  
(7) & (12). Reference to  
the Brook Linke has been  
made in several items in  
the paper or subscion to  
that is no need to keep this

Detail to them. No concrete  
measures have recalling  
the permission for non-  
Nataline Trade are possible  
h we do not need P.O.  
help in that the same  
question.

From Baileys

25-6

A

I think the Brook Ctee has not yet taken the  
paper on Nigeria? Has the paper yet been  
circulated? If not, we might put in  
a short bit based on E/7. If it has gone in,  
then a short 'brief' on E/7 should be prepared  
for Mr Cantini's for the meeting. I agree that  
the activities of this corporation hardly come  
within the "center-revision" scope of the  
Brook Ctee, but the latter should be informed  
of the facts when considering Nigeria.

Sparks ←  
Cawthron  
by short  
brief & one  
days ago  
on this.

RB 26/6

W.W.  
25/6

Mr Cox

As above. I have failed  
to get you on the phone.

From Baileys

26-6.

Seen  
C.G. 9/11

The Nigeria paper has been circulated, but not  
taken by the Ctee yet. (Sorry to be inaccessible but  
we have an 1.0. conference on).

Not by

RB 27/6

W.W.  
26-6.

13 Clinton - Thomas - Ref (125)

13. 9. 56

in Walton

—   
 thin mill in the  
 draft?

Maxim Banks

---

13-9

~~H504  
Rattan & the Agave paper  
Book file  
W.W. 20/9~~

Mr Barton

The paper on "Black Africa" is not intended originally for the Board Ctee. However, I think you might say to Mr Clinton-Thomas that we have now finalised the draft of an assessment of the Communist threat to Africa for circulation to Mr. Grot's : that this will be sent round for clearance of the Intreated Deptt in the next few days, & then to be put to JIC Directors for endorsement: and that, when it has been agreed & signed by Mr. Grot's, we will consider whether it might usefully be submitted also to the Board Ctee for consideration of any points on which counter-measures of the kind with which that Ctee is concerned might be pursued. (I don't myself feel there are any).

WW  
25/9

Mr Attwells

M. draft ready  
J.B 25/9

Mr Barton

Dfr. Ltr

J.W. Attwells  
26/9.

14. To R. A. Clinton Thomas, Esq., F.O.

2.10.56.

M. Barker U/V

M. Watson

The next meeting of the Brook Committee is fixed for 10/10. There will be an <sup>communist</sup> item on the agenda "Unfriendly agencies in Africa". This arose as follows.

M. Hunt phoned me to discuss the agenda, + asked whether we wanted this item put on the agenda (the Cabinet Office had copies of 12 + 13, but not of 14).

I said I thought not, but would look up the papers and consult. Before I had done so, M. Hunt had phoned again to say F.O. were very active and were pressing for the item to be included; that he had spoken to the Chairman + that he did not see how they could refuse to put the item down if the F.O. wanted to raise it really, since the F.O. would not be solely concerned with agencies in British Africa. I <sup>said</sup> that if the Chairman agreed to F.O. raising the matter that left us no choice.

It will be necessary to brief M. Carteris for this item, but we do not know what points F.O. will raise. Possibly all they want to do is to make a noise about the agencies described in (6) + (9) - F.O. had copies of these reports - with a view to giving support for their theory about the Communist drive into black Africa. In reply we might explain present policy about visas as stated in (4) in this file + go on to make

the point in Th. Barbara's minute of 25/6.  
This question was not discussed when the  
final draft took the paper in Nigeria, & it  
may be that the brief prepared for  
Th. Castries in that occasion (Th. Barbara's  
minute of 26/6) would meet the case now.

With

3/10/52

Yours with  
many cordial regards  
H. L. St. John St. Leger

1. The P.O. must provide material  
for Russian/Chinese to Friday  
afternoon in Khartoum &  
Radio Abeba. We know from  
a recent paper on CX 38  
that the Chinese amount  
to nothing.
2. To the material on this  
file, all of which the P.O.  
has, can be added an  
attempt by the Czech  
Moto Kow to sell motor  
bicycles in Somaliland. A  
visa was refused.
3. But (14) is surely the  
correct position; in which about  
time the P.O. stopped  
hounding our barbers. And  
this he insures?

SLX in Berlin

4.10

Mr Banta

To achieve objective in para 3 of your  
minute, please draft brief for Mr Cartans  
for meeting on 10/10 -

(a) explaining what has happened re-aids  
F.O. in this file:

A/ (b) quoting the general assessment of this  
kind of activity in our draft paper on  
Africa (i.e. negligible so far), but what  
we have said about the likelihood of  
the Communists trying to step it up:

B/ (c) mentioning the line we have adopted over  
attempt to set up Trade unions etc in  
Europe & Roy King:

(d) concluding & saying that it does not appear  
that this kind of activity is susceptible  
of treatment of the kind of counter-measures  
with which the Brool Clte is concerned,  
but if you members have suggestions  
naturally we should be interested & hear  
them.

ML 4/10

5/10 ✓ R. Rose

Mr Banta

And B/

Paper at A/ above to Cx

38, Mean, for Cx 38 see my

min 4/0. 8B 5/10

Mr Banta  
Mr Banta

Mr Cartans

Re. re Mr Cox's minute of 3/10.

Brief enclosed for the Brool Clte meeting,  
a/ wed.

ML 8/10

15 Note for Mr. Caustain for Brooke Committee Mtg held - 10. 10. 56.

16 Extract from CEN 520/6th Mtg minute 4 - 10. 10. 56

Mr. Berkman 16/w

Mr. Watson

To see + ? publ.

W.H.G.  
15/10

17/10 ~~TP804~~  
Extract XXVII (b) 15 papers about  
Communist threat in Africa.

The publ

WW

16/10 alter

K.W.

**CLOSED**

NO FURTHER

ACTION

TO BE TAKEN

IN THIS FILE.

CONTINUED ON:-

157/13.4 1957-59

4. COMMUNIST USE OF TRADING AGENCIES IN AFRICA

Copy on 150127/145/01

Extract from CEN 520/6th May

-10.18.8.

16

The Committee were informed that the Foreign Office had been concerned at the use which the Communists were making of trading agencies to secure a foothold in African countries. The Foreign Office had asked the Colonial Office to consider the risk presented by such agencies in the British territories in Africa.

MR. CARSTAIRS said that there were at present two Communist agencies in British territories, one in Nigeria and one in the Gold Coast, both of them Czech. Once a trading agency had been established, it was difficult to do very much about it except keep it under close surveillance, since Colonies had been informed that it was the policy of Her Majesty's Government to develop trade in non-strategic goods with iron curtain countries, that such trade need not be discouraged, and that no objection could be seen to the issue of visas to trading representatives of iron curtain countries wishing to visit African territories for commercial purposes. It had, however, been pointed out to Colonial territories that visa applications should be treated on their individual merits, and that if there was any reason to suppose that an applicant might be engaged in undesirable activities his visa application should be refused; and further, that in cases where a visa was granted the person concerned should be kept under surveillance.

X The Committee noted that the problem presented by trading agencies in African territories would be touched upon in the paper on Communism in Africa which was being prepared by the Colonial Office in co-operation with other Departments. A draft of this paper had been sent to interested

Departments for comments, and when the draft was agreed it would be submitted to the J. I. C. The paper would then come before this Committee, when the problem of trading agencies could be examined in relation to the whole picture of Communist effort in Africa.

Nigeria } Gecl.  
15  
1/86

NOTES FOR MR. CARSTAIRS

COMMUNIST TRADING AGENCIES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
IN AFRICA

*BT/44*  
*10/10/61*  
*W.M.H.*

1. The Foreign Office suggested that this matter should be raised in Sir Norman Brook's Committee on Subversion in Colonial Territories with a view to seeing what counter measures can be devised. In reply they were told that the draft of an assessment of the Communist threat to Africa for circulation to Colonial Governors had been prepared and was being sent round for clearance by interested Departments, and that when this had issued we would consider whether the question of trading agencies might usefully be submitted to the Brook Committee for consideration of any points concerning the counter measures, with which that Committee is concerned. Despite this, the Foreign Office have pressed for an item to be included, and appear to have obtained Sir Norman Brook's agreement to raise the matter orally.

*Min. of 3/10*

*(72-C):*  
*ISD 61/01*

2. In a paper on Soviet economic diplomacy, which covers most of the world, it is said by the Foreign Office that trade transactions made between the Soviet bloc and the non-industrialised countries of Asia and Africa are of a modest order and frequently fall behind expectations as expressed in trade agreements. No African instances, save in Egypt, are given.

Our view for some time has been that one of the main Communist tactics will be a policy of penetration through trade and economic aid but, so far as British Africa is concerned, the effect of this economic Communist activity has *so far* been negligible.

This is not to say that it will not occur, and it is a fact that we were seemingly the first to think such a move likely. It may be that the Foreign Office have forgotten that we have told Colonies that it is the policy of HMG to develop trade in non-strategic goods with the Iron Curtain countries, that such trade need not be discouraged, and that no objection would be seen to the issue of

/visas

visas to trading representatives of Iron Curtain countries wishing to visit African territories for commercial purposes.

It was, however, said that visa applications should be treated on their individual merits and that if there was any reason to suppose that an applicant might be engaged in undesirable activities his visa application should be refused. Further, that in cases where a visa is granted the person concerned should be kept under surveillance.

In December last, Nigeria reported that requests for visas from traders from Iron Curtain countries, usually Czechs, were become more frequent and we asked for details of the Czechoslovak-Nigeria Export and Import Company, and Adnan Ashkar & Co., of the Gold Coast.

These were copied to the Foreign Office. Nothing was known against (6): ISD B.4 the Gold Coast firm which imports motor vehicle spare parts, batteries, tyres, tubes, etc. The Nigerian firm was established so long ago

(9): ISD B.4 as 1948 as a state-controlled Czech trading agency based on the pre-war Czech trading interests. Its trading activities can be briefly summed up by saying that its goods are sold in Nigeria at very competitive prices and that the profits remain in the country for the purchase of rubber, payment of salaries, etc. The firm also appears to handle Czech affairs for the whole of the West Coast of Africa. Formerly there were two other firms. It has an expatriate quota of three, one of whom is not a Communist, is a devout Roman Catholic and has applied for British naturalisation. There is no evidence that the firm is being used to provide funds for Communists in Nigeria, but this is an obvious potential development. The firm is in touch with the Czech trading agencies, of Technoexport, Chemapol, and Centrotex.

The only other indication of Communist trade in Africa has been an application by a representative of Motokov of Prague to visit Somaliland for the purpose of selling motor bicycles. The visa was refused. Trading in motor bicycles in Somaliland is, of course, ludicrous.

3. It does not appear that trade and technological approaches by the Soviet bloc in Africa are susceptible to treatment by the counter measures with which the Brook Committee is concerned. If,

/however,

however, any members of the Brook Committee have any practical suggestions to make we should be interested to hear them. Attention is, however, invited to what is said in paragraph 2 about the policy directive given to Colonies on trade in non-strategic goods with Iron Curtain countries, and of this the rest of the Committee should be made aware - as stated, the Foreign Office have been told of it.

FED 421/638/01  
FED 421/632/01

4. The USSR has proposed to the Board of Trade to set up Governmental Trade Missions in Hong Kong and Singapore, and the Czechs one in Singapore. This has been the subject of a protest from the Secretary of State to the President of the Board of Trade, and was copied to the Foreign Office. Trade Missions are clearly in a different category from trade by commercial agencies.7

WB/ko

TOP SECRET

14.

NC 1161/49

ISD B.4

TOP SECRET

*9<sup>th</sup> October*  
September 1956

13

Please refer to your letter of the 13th September about raising the question of the Communist use of trading agencies and technologists in Africa in the Brook Committee.

We have completed the draft of an assessment of the Communist threat to Africa for circulation to Colonial Governments, which will shortly be sent round for clearance by the interested Departments before being put to the JIC Directors.

When it has been issued to Colonial Governments we will consider whether it might usefully be submitted also to the Brook Committee, for consideration of any points on which counter measures, of the kind with which that committee is concerned, might be pursued.

(C.J.J.T. Barton)

R.A. CLINTON THOMAS, ESQ.,  
Foreign Office.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

September 13, 1956.

(NC 1161/4G)

TOP SECRET

1/2/56

My dear Barton,

(12)

In my Top Secret letter NC 1161/4G of June 19 I suggested that you might raise in Sir Norman Brook's Committee on Counter Subversion in Colonial Territories the question of the use of trading agencies and technologists in the communist campaign of penetration in Africa.

Would you let me know if you intend to do so?

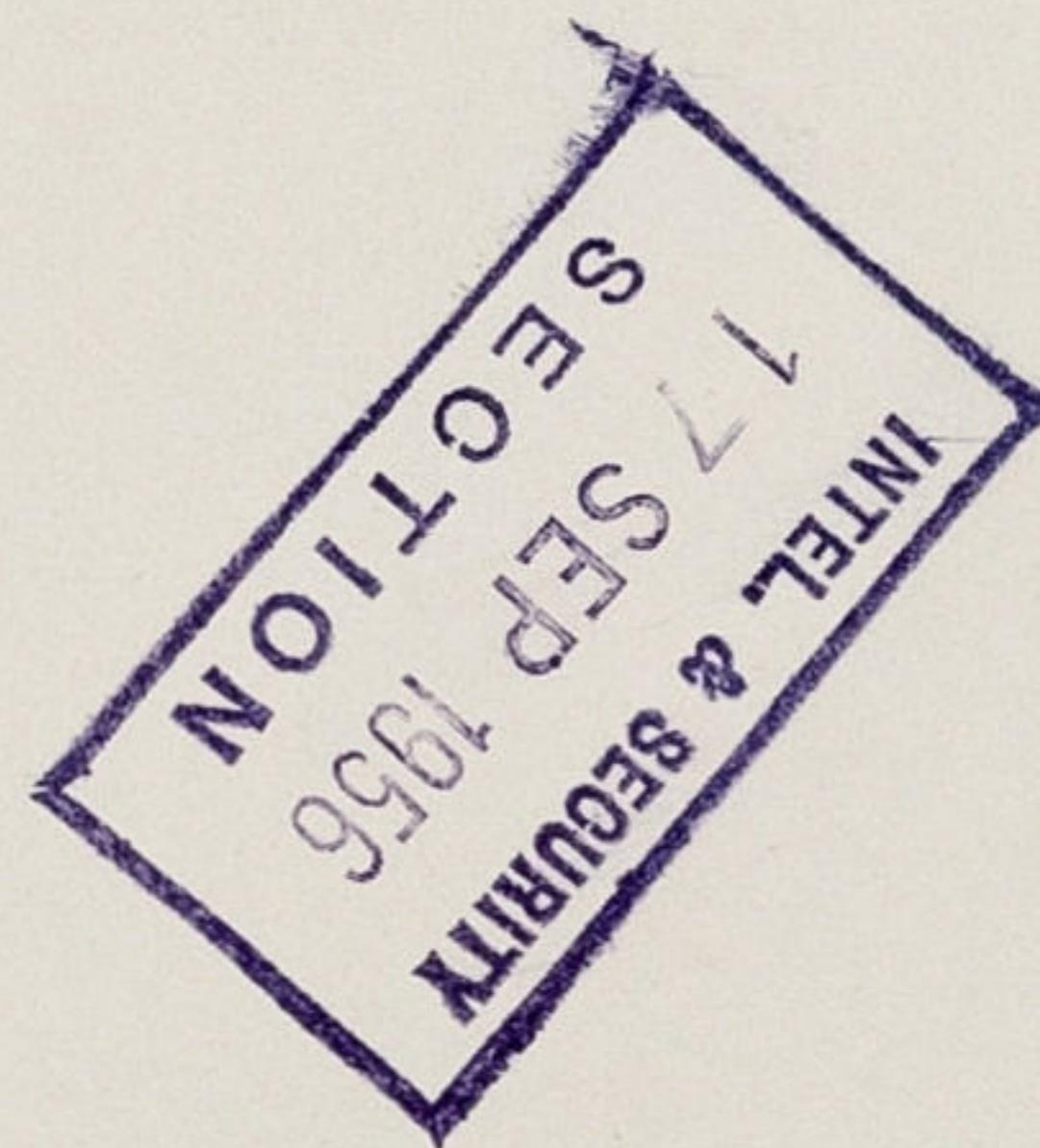
I am sending a copy of this letter to Hunt in the Cabinet Office.

Yours ever

R.A. Clinton-Thomas.

(R.A. Clinton-Thomas)

C.J.J.T. Barton, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.,  
Colonial Office.



~~TOP SECRET~~

(NC 1161/4G)

12.  
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

June 19, 1956.

*My dear Barton,*

(10) The enclosure to your letter ISD/B.4 of May 10 has been studied with great interest in the Foreign Office. We agree with your estimate that much use is likely to be made of trading agencies and technologists in the communist campaign of penetration in Africa.

2. I venture to suggest that you might usefully raise this matter in Sir Norman Brook's Committee on Subversion in Colonial Territories, with a view to seeing what counter-measures can be devised in consultation with our friends and the Security Service. We should, of course, be glad to do anything in our power to help. We have already asked Her Majesty's Representatives concerned to make a special point

/of reporting...

C. J. J. T. Barton, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.,  
Colonial Office.

of reporting any signs of subversion in Belgian, French and Portuguese Africa, and will let you know if anything useful emerges.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to Hunt in the Cabinet Office.

*Yours ever*

*R.A. Clinton-Thomas.*

(R. A. CLINTON-THOMAS)

SECRET

10

Copy to:

Mr. A.S. Martin, MI.5.

11

INC 1161/2G

ISD B.4

SECRET

10 May 1956

*Ans by (12)*

Dear Clinton Thomas

*D*

Please refer to your letter of February 22 about Czech trade corporations in general.

*6-9*

I enclose a copy of a report about the Czechoslovak-Nigeria Export & Import Co. which we have now received from Nigeria, and also a copy of a report from the Gold Coast on the firm of Messrs. Adnan Ashkar & Co., together with a list of their overseas agencies.

We think that should the Soviet bloc campaign in British Africa they would make much use of trading agencies and technologists.

I have copied this letter with its enclosures to Martin, MI.5.

*J. S.*

*Signed*

*(C.J.J.T. Barton)*

R.A. CLINTON THOMAS, ESQ.,  
Foreign Office.

~~SECRET~~

Sec. 733/ H504

# Saving

From the Governor-General, Nigeria

To Secretary of State for the Colonies, London

Date 3 MAY, April, 1956.

No. 73672 Saving

FGP M 276

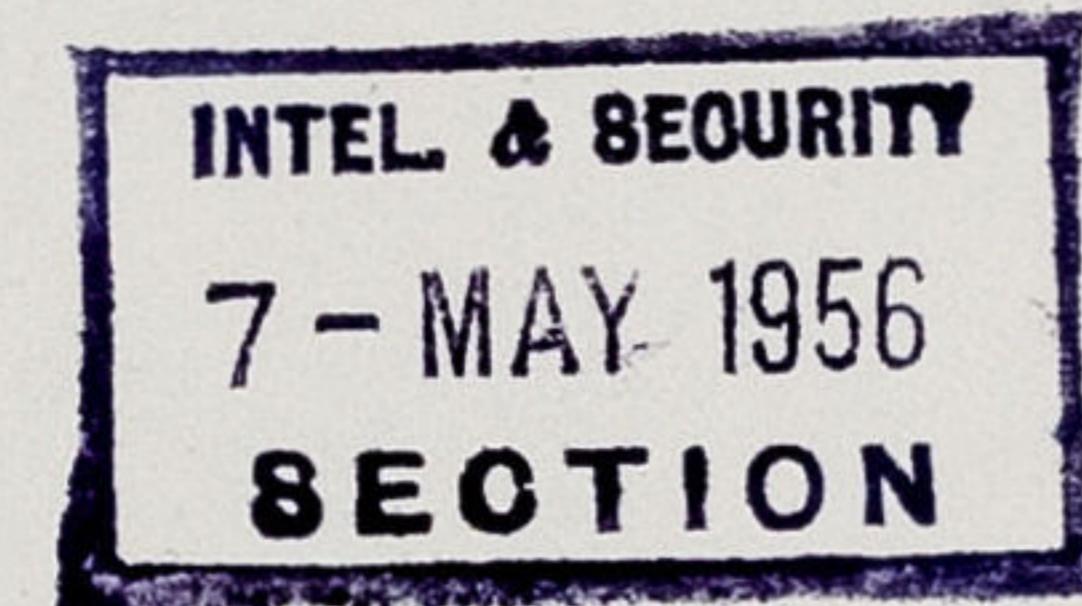
(2)

Your Secret Savingram ISD/B4 of 13 March 1956. (No.511)

Attached, as requested, is a report on the Czechoslovak-Nigeria Export & Import Company.



Governor-General.



20/5/1956

THE CZECHOSLOVAK-NIGERIA EXPORT & IMPORT COMPANY

This Company was established in 1948 as a state-controlled Czech trading agency based on the pre-war Czech trading interests. The application for its establishment was made by Pavel KUDLAC on 15th December, 1947.

It may well be that one of the reasons for the establishment of this concern is to facilitate the creation of a Czechoslovak Consulate or Trade Mission here; indeed, rumours of such a proposal have been reported on several occasions.

The Czechoslovak-Nigeria Export & Import Company is not a limited Company and, therefore, is only registered with the Department of Commerce and Industries and not with the Registrar of Companies. They are not subject to the more stringent requirements of a registered company and they are not required to furnish a list of shareholders, balance sheets, etc. The names of the directors are:-

Frank PERINA  
Cestmir M. NEMEC  
Karel MAZVR  
Jaroslav CZECH

At present one, ZDNEK BORTEL, and his wife are in the Lagos office and in the near future he will take over as manager. I am informed that the wife appears to be the driving force and to rank much higher in the Party than her husband. She is employed as Secretary to the Company and it is she who really handles all correspondence of a private nature with Czechoslovakia.

Their trading activities can be briefly summed up in that goods arrive in this country from Czechoslovakia and are sold here at very competitive prices. Profits on trading remain in this country for purchase of rubber, payment of salaries of staff, etc. and any balance remaining, it is presumed, can be used for any under-cover activities in which a communist-controlled country would normally participate. The amount of raw rubber exported to Czechoslovakia is not large and this is controlled under permit by the Department of Commerce and Industries.

This firm also appears to handle Czech affairs for the whole of the West Coast of Africa. Applications for visas by Czech nationals to visit this country are supported and the necessary immigration guarantees are also given by this Company.

The Czechoslovak-Nigerian Import & Export Company is at present the only Czechoslovakian commercial firm trading in Nigeria. Formerly there were two other firms as well - Jackels and Bata Zlin. Jackels no longer exists and its former manager, Robert KRACMAR, now runs a firm known as The African Manufacturing & Import Coy. which apparently has no connection with the Czechoslovak Government. (He is also agent for Lennards, the Bristol shoe firm.) Bata Zlin has been absorbed into the Czechoslovak-Nigerian Import & Export Company.

The Company deals chiefly in rubber and exports practically the full quota of Nigerian rubber to Czechoslovakia. It has a nominal capital of £20,000 and claims an annual turnover of £100,000. It has an expatriate quota of three. Formerly it was four but one left when a branch was closed down and the Principal Immigration Officer refused to approve a replacement. Expatriates now in Nigeria are:-

KUDLAC  
BORTEL  
CAJANEK

Our information leaves no doubt that this Company is being used by the Czechoslovak Government as a Government agency. Members of the staff are required to provide information to the Czechoslovak Government on:-

- (i) industrial, economic and political conditions in Nigeria;
- (ii) the behaviour of other Czechs in Nigeria.

There is no evidence that the firm is being used as a channel for providing funds for communists in Nigeria but this is an obvious potential development. It is also obvious that the firm represents a potential "cultural" centre for subversive activities.

From time to time references to Czech State industries and trading concerns arise in correspondence dealing with the Czechoslovak-Nigeria Export & Import Coy. activities. These foreign trade corporations include the following:-

#### TECHNOEXPORT

Export complete equipment for sugar mills, paper mills, mines, distilleries, breweries, power stations, foundries, steelworks, refrigerating plants, canneries, dairies, machine shops, slaughter houses, chemical and other technical industries.

#### CHEMAPOL

Exports and imports chemical products and raw materials, including medicaments, laboratory chemicals, pharmaceutic raw materials, moulding powders, dyes, glues, cosmetics, ceramic glazes, auxiliary products for the textile industry, organic chemicals of all kinds.

#### CENTROTEX

Exports and imports textile and leather goods, cottons, linens, technical fabrics, felts, glass fibres, artificial leather, millinery, knitwear, hosiery, furs, printed fabrics, ready-made clothing, hats, carpets, soft furnishings, blankets, tulle and lace, footwear of all kinds.

Prior to the receipt of the Secretary of State for the Colonies Savingram No. ISD B.4, dated 13th March, 1956, nothing was known of MOTOKOV, though the Security Liaison Officer has full details of this Organization.

*(Relevant)*  
Messrs. KUDLAC and BORTEL may be regarded as fairly hard-core communists but CAJANEK is not. He has applied for British naturalization; his children are at school in England and he is a devout Catholic. The Czechs are aware of all this and recent efforts to increase their expatriate staff quota have been directed - we suspect - either to relieving (and recalling) him or putting in an "understudy" to watch him. The requests for extra staff have been refused and CAJANEK's naturalization papers given more urgent consideration as pressure is now being brought to bear on him by the Czech Government by adverse revision of his terms of service.

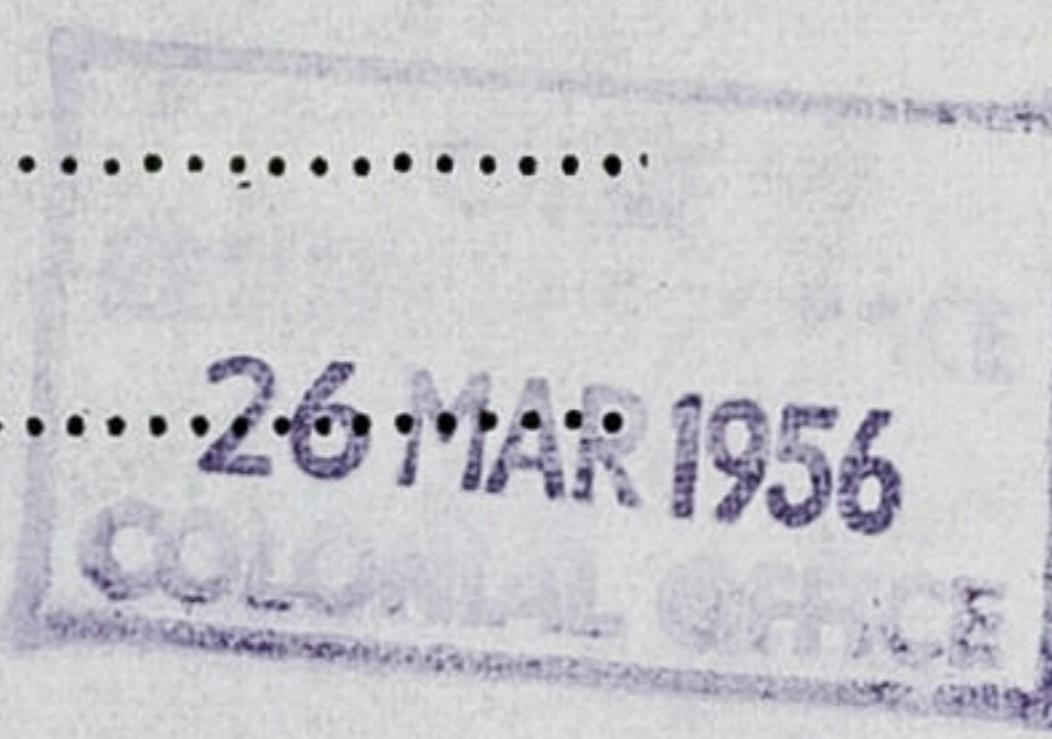
Of the companies quoted as references, nothing is known of those companies not in Nigeria. Witt & Busch are a Dutch firm which deals mainly in importing consumer goods and does not export raw products in bulk. Nothing is known to the detriment of the firm or its directors.

April, 1956.

SAVING

G.S.O.  
573/4

FROM OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, GOLD COAST  
TO SECRETARY OF STATE  
DATE 22<sup>ND</sup> March, 1956  
NO. 302 SAVING



SECRET

150 | B.4

(3) Your Secret savingram No. 299 of 13th March.

I attach a copy of a report on the firm of Messrs. Adnan Ashkar & Co., together with a list of their oversea agencies, both of which have been provided by the Ministry of Trade & Labour.

2. It will be noted that Motokov Limited are included in the list of agencies as numbers 25-27.
3. Nothing is known against the firm of Adnan Ashkar & Co. in this country.

OFFICER ADMINISTER THE  
GOVERNMENT.



21/3

Copy at back of file

b/b

COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

1. Name of Firm: ADNAN ASHKAR AND COMPANY
2. Addresses: (a) P.O. Box 924, Tel. No. 3070  
(b) Situation of business premises  
(Street and House No.)  
D.766/4, Rowe Road, Accra.
3. Branches at TAKORADI, KUMASI, NKAWKAW, KOFORIDUA.
4. Number and Date of Registration:  
(a) under Business Names Ordinance: No. 155/52;  
5th Sept. 1952.  
(b) date of establishment of business: 1st November,  
1949.
5. Name of Resident Proprietor: ADNAN ASHKAR.
6. Importers of AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS, namely MOTOR VEHICLE  
SPARE PARTS, STARTER BATTERIES, BRAKE  
FLUID, SULPHURIC ACID, TYRES AND TUBES,  
etc. etc.
7. Whether the business is wholesale or retail or  
both:- WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.
8. Whether the business is agency only or whether  
stocks are carried: BOTH.
9. Immigration Quota: Four non-Africans.
10. Capital said to be £40,000.
11. Average Annual Turnover said to be £122,000.

NOTE: Bankers have reported favourably on  
this firm.

ADNAN ASHKAR & COMPANY

List of oversea agencies

1. M/s. Arthur Buechting of Hamburg 1 . . . . . Sulphuric Acid.
2. M/s. Martin Stuercken & Co., GmbH. of Bremen . . . . . Axleshafts.
3. The Deutsch-WestAfrikanische HG. of Hamburg . . . . . Wheel Bolts.
4. M/s. Walker Bros. (London) Ltd. of London, E.C.2. . . . . Brake Linings.
5. M/s. L. Wadsworth & Co. (Exp.) Ltd. of London, S.W.1. . . . . Clutches.
6. Jean Faust & Sohn of Bruhl b. Koeln . . . . . Starter Batteries.
7. The L-Group Export (Pty) Ltd., of Johannesburg . . . . .
8. do. do. do. . . . .
9. The Cornercroft Ltd., of Coventry . . . . .
10. The Romac Industries Ltd. of London, N.W.9. . . . .
11. Hebox-Holland N.V., Boxtel, Holland . . . . .
12. The Steyr-Daimler-Puch A.G., of Steyr . . . . .
13. The Ensign Accumulators Ltd., London, N.8. . . . .
14. M/s. A. Plein & Co. Inc. of New York 4 . . . . .
15. M/s. Elof Hansson of Goteborg . . . . .
16. M/s. do. do. do. . . . .
17. M/s. do. do. do. . . . .
18. The Pac Products Co. of New York 4 . . . . .
19. M/s. Fricdr. Marquardt of Friedberg/Augsburg -Piston Rings.
20. The Beru Verkaufs GmbH. of Ludwigsburg/ Wuertt. . . . .
21. The Bremer Afrika Gessellschaft of Bremen . . . . .
22. The Glueh Dr. Gunther Fischer oHG. of Limburg/Lahn . . . . .
23. Wilcot (Patent) Co. Ltd. of Bristol . . . . .
24. The Securol-Gessel. Robert Oehms KG. of Wuersburg . . . . .

~~XXXXXX~~

25. The Motokov Ltd., of Praha VII . . . . .
26. do. do. do. . . . .
27. do. do. do. . . . .
28. The Rheinische Kohle Franz Wenzel KG. of Ahrweiler . . . . .
29. The Hessische Gummi. Fritz Peter AG. of Klein-Auheim b. Hanau . . . . .
30. The Hessische Gummi. Fritz Peter Ag. . . . .
31. The S.I.D.E.M. s.a.b., of Auderghem . . . . .
32. do. do. do. do. . . . .
33. N.V. Mij.t.v.v.d.x.v. J.W. Nagtegaal of Bilthoven . . . . .
34. M/s. S. Guiterman & Co. Ltd., of London, W.1. . . . .
35. M/s. Heitmann & Bruum of Hamburg . . . . .
36. M/s. Fritz Brumme of Raunheim a Main . . . . .
37. The Aeolian Shipping Co. Inc. of New York 4. Engines.
38. M/s. Walker-Tyseley (Electrical) Ltd. of Manchester . . . . .
39. M/s. Karl Ernst Kohlhaas, of Walporzheim/Ahr. Springs.
40. M/s. do. do. do. . . . .

ISD/B.4

COLONIAL OFFICE,  
S.W.1.

NC 1161/2G

16th March, 1956

SECRET

Please refer to your letter of the 22nd February about a proposed visit to Nigeria and the Gold Coast by a Czech businessman.

We have no information on the activities of the companies mentioned and have asked the Nigeria and Gold Coast Governments for a report.

On the general question of visa applications by trading representatives of Iron Curtain countries, Colonial Governments have been advised that since it is the policy of Her Majesty's Government in the U.K. to develop trade in non-strategic goods with the Iron Curtain countries, such trade need not therefore be discouraged, and that no objection would be seen to the issue of visas to trading representatives of Iron Curtain countries wishing to visit such territories for commercial purposes.

It was suggested, however, that visa applications from these trading representatives should be treated on their individual merits and if there was reason to suppose that an applicant might engage in undesirable activities, political or otherwise, a visa application should be refused. In cases where a visa is granted the person concerned should be kept under surveillance.

/You

R.A. CLINTON THOMAS, ESQ.

A  
(6)

You may be interested to know that the Nigerian Government has recently reported that requests for visas for traders from Iron Curtain countries - usually Czechs - are becoming more frequent and that in spite of the obvious possibility of planned political and economic espionage, of which there have been no recent reports, in the absence of any specific security objection it is not possible to do other than treat each case in the light of normal immigration policy.

I enclose a short note giving some details known to us of visits made to West African territories by Iron Curtain trading representatives during the last year.

*Marlin*  
I have sent Oughton (M.I.5) a copy of this.

Yours sincerely  
*Juscon Barton*  
(C.J.J.T. Barton)

VISITS TO WEST AFRICAN TERRITORIES BY TRADING REPRESENTATIVES  
OF IRON CURTAIN COUNTRIES - 1955/1956

Gold Coast Zdenek Komers, Czechoslovak national; visit of 15 days on behalf of Messrs. Motokov of Prague.

Paul Mandy, Hungarian national; visit of 15 days on behalf of Tannimpex of Budapest.

Nigeria Karel Bruna ) - Czech nationals;  
Joseph Simak)

Bruna is manager of the textiles department of Messrs. Centrotex; Simak is manager of the shoe and leather department of the same firm. They stayed with the manager of the Czechoslovak-Nigeria Export and Import Trading Company. During their visit they were kept under surveillance but gave no indication of any interest apart from improving their trade. A visit was also made to the Gambia during which they confined themselves to matters of business.

Gambia Vladimir Prunner, Czechoslovak national; sales representative of Strojexport, a C.S.K. State Foreign Trade organisation. The purpose of the visit was to sell C.S.K. diesel engines, transport machinery, etc.

ISD B.4

SAVINGRAM

SECRET

2

3

*Max Bawh3*  
*17/3/56*

From the Secretary of State of the Colonies,

511

To The Governor-General, Federation of Nigeria, No.....

299

Repeated to Governor, Gold Coast, No.....

Date 13 March 1956.

SECRET

.... I enclose a copy of a letter from the Acting British Consul, Prague, to the Principal Immigration Officer, Lagos, and to the Passport Control Officer, Accra, about a proposed visit to Nigeria and the Gold Coast by a Czech business man.

2. I note from para. 12(iii) of your Political Intelligence Notes for the period December 15 to January 15 that requests for visas for traders from Iron Curtain countries - usually Czechs - are becoming more frequent. I should therefore be grateful to have your comments on the activities of the companies mentioned by Vondrasek, the applicant; and I should also be grateful for any details you may have of the Czechoslovak Nigerian Export and Import Company of Lagos.

SECER.

NIGERIA — 3  
G.COAST — 4.

No. of copies sent.....

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

February 22, 1956.

(NC 1161/2G)

SECRET

*My dear Barton, away. Fly 22/2.*

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I enclose a copy of a letter from Allchin, the Acting British Consul in Prague, to the Principal Immigration Officer at Lagos and to the Passport Control Officer at Accra about a proposed visit to Nigeria and the Gold Coast by a Czech business man.

This seems to be one of a series of applications by representatives of Czech Trade Corporations, and is presumably connected with the current Soviet bloc campaign to extend their influence in Africa. We should, accordingly, be interested to have your comments on the activities of the companies mentioned by Vondrasek, the applicant. In particular we should like to have any details you may have of the Czechoslovak Nigerian Export and Import Company of Lagos.

I am copying this letter to Oughton in the Security Service.

*Yours ever*

*R.A. Clinton Thomas*

(R.A. Clinton Thomas)

C.J.J.T. Barton, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.,  
Colonial Office.



(S.73751)

AF/12331

COPY

British Embassy,  
Consular Section,  
Prague,  
c/o Foreign Office,  
Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

January 30, 1956.

The Principal Immigration Officer,  
The Nigeria Police,  
Lagos, NIGERIA.

The Passport Control Officer,  
Police Headquarters,  
P.O.B. 1017,  
Accra, GOLD COAST.

The Director,  
Passport Control Department,  
London, S.W.1.  
(Your S.73751 refers)

Sir,

I have the honour to refer for your instructions the visa application of Mr. VONDRASEK, who is Head of the Commercial Rubber Goods Department of Motokov, a Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Monopoly.

During the course of his interview, he said that Czechoslovak exports of rubber goods, including motor-car tyres, to Nigeria and the Gold Coast, were very small. He wished to call on local firms, examine market possibilities and ascertain likely requirements, and hoped that as a result of his visit to your territory, and, in the same connection, to re-export firms in the United Kingdom, this trade would be considerably increased.

He quoted the following references, and produced correspondence from them in support of his application:

Nigeria: Messrs. Witt & Busch Ltd., 63-67 Broad Street, P.O.B. 17, Lagos.

Messrs. Czechoslovak Nigerian Export & Import Co., P.O.B. 31, Lagos.

Gold Coast: Messrs. Adnan Ashkar & Co., P.O.B. 924, Accra.

United Kingdom: Messrs. Galiron Ltd., Buckingham House, 19-21, Palace Street, London, S.W.1. (Mr. R.E. August, Director).

Messrs. Pride & Clark Ltd., Stockwell Road, London, S.W.9 (Mr. J.C.B. Pride, Sales Manager).

MR. VONDRASEK added that, in the absence of an Anglo-Czech Trade Agreement, there were no direct exports of Czechoslovak rubber goods to the United Kingdom, but that in conjunction with his proposed visit to the United Kingdom in connection with re-exports to Africa, he would discuss the possibilities of future trade, should a Trade Agreement be signed.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
(SGD.) W. Allchin.  
Acting British Consul.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
CONSULAR SECTION,  
PRAGUE.

c/o Foreign Office, Whitehall,  
London, S.W.1.

AF/12331

Family Name.....VONDRA SEK Maiden Name.....

Christian Names.Frantisek Patronymic .....

Address.....Prague XVIII-Stresovice, Na drackach 19.

.....  
Place and Date of Birth.Velke Nepodrice, 7th July, 1910.

Sex.....male.....Profession. Department head,Nationality  
at Motokov, Prague. Czechoslovak

Arrived ..... Coming from.....

Destination,.. United Kingdom, Nigeria, Gold Coast.....

Reason for Journey...See remarks.....

Duration of Proposed Visit U.K. - one week, Nigeria - 2 weeks, Gold  
Coast - 1 week.

Means at Applicant's Disposal.....

Date of Previous Visits... none .... In what capacity .....

Previous Address in U.K.....

REFERENCES IN UNITED KINGDOM

(1) ..... (2) .....

.....  
Special Passport No. 6320/55314-55 Issued at Prague. On.30.7.55

Valid until 29.7.57.

Return Visa(s) to.....Valid until .....

Signature of Applicant .....

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Date Remarks

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See attached letter.

